

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: El Monte Strip Mining project

From: tkkearney@aol.com [<mailto:tkkearney@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 12:02 AM

To: Bennett, Jim

Subject: El Monte Strip Mining project

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am also writing to let you know how important I think the recreational, historic, habitat, and water resources are in El Monte Valley. The proposed sand mining plan (El Monte Nature Preserve) would threaten the third largest aquifer in San Diego County as a trade off for sand. I think it is far more important to protect the water, habitat, recreational and the agricultural values of El Monte Valley.

The State of California, the County of San Diego, and various communities not to mention local citizen donors have contributed millions of dollars to create the San Diego River Park. This 52-mile, park from the mountains to the sea, is being developed for everyone to enjoy. The El Monte Valley has always been envisioned as the core this project, in part due to its proximity to the urban centers of San Diego. Known for its amazing beauty, the flume trail, its equestrian uses, and diverse wildlife, this sand mine would permanently compromise the beauty of the El Monte Valley and the San Diego River Park effort.

I am also concerned about the threat of Valley Fever (*Coccidioides immitis* or *Coccidioides posadasii*) posed by the proposed sand mine in El Monte Valley. The valley is a hotspot for this illness in East County. Because schools, ball fields, homes and urban centers are located within the prevailing wind patterns of the valley, many people would be expose to this potentially fatal disease including many children.

I strongly believe that the El Monte Sand Mining project will have a tremendous negative impact on so many aspects of the existing El Monte Valley: It will affect the surrounding neighborhoods and their singular underground water source, risking their well water quality. Noise pollution is also a consequence which will chase away any existing wildlife, and the consideration is not even short-term; it is over the period of 15 years. There needs to be a balance between development and open space. This project is destroying that balance.

I see no benefit to the community in this. Upon closer examination, this company seems to be a sham, with a history of mining illegally under a presumed golf course permit. Changing the name does not change the motivation or the integrity ! It would seem that there is a reason that the valley is currently zoned as agricultural with a scenic corridor designator. Why should one company have the right to alter all of that just for its own purposes.

NO on EL MONTE NATURE PRESERVE SAND MINING!

Kathy Kearney
Lakeside resident
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